


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9499WO		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/14316	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.12.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F26B13/02			
Applicant ANDRITZ FIBER DRYING AKTIEBOLAG et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 01.07.2004		Date of completion of this report 16.09.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer Frank, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2695	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/14316

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-20 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Claim 1

The most relevant prior art appears to be document WO-A-82/03450. This document discloses a method for drying or heat treatment of a web-formed material comprising the features of the first part of claim 1.

The remaining method steps of claim 1, which define that

- a first flow of process air is formed, with a cross section extending essentially across the whole width of the web-formed material and the extent of which along the direction of movement of the web-formed material is essentially smaller than its extent perpendicular to the direction of movement of the web-formed material, with a direction of flow essentially perpendicular to the surface of the web-formed material,
- the first flow of process air is divided into a large number of jets directed essentially in a plane defined by the direction of movement and the normal direction of the web-formed material, said jets being distributed over essentially the whole of the angular region facing the web-formed material, and that
- the jets are allowed to mix with one another again into a second flow of process air, which is conducted through the pressure-drop zone and then against and through the web-formed material lying on the gas-permeable dryer screen,

are neither known from nor rendered obvious by the available prior art. It is also credible that such an arrangement provides a better distribution of the drying air through the web-formed material.

The subject-matter of claim 1 would therefore appear to meet the criterion set forth in Article 33 (2 and (3) PCT. The industrial applicability is to be readily recognised due to its intended use.

2. Claim 11

Claim 11 defines basically the method steps of claim 1 in terms of apparatus features. Therefore, above criteria apply also for the independent apparatus claim 11.

The apparatus according to independent apparatus claim 11 is thus also new and inventive and the present application satisfies the criterion set forth in Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

3. Claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 20

The dependent claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 20 contain modifications of the inventive idea embodied in claim 1, respectively claim 11 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Certain observations on the international application

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document WO-A-82/03450 is not mentioned in the description, nor is/are this/these document/s identified therein.